

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/668,192

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-10 have been examined; and claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 stand rejected. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates that claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 10 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter but being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

By way of the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended, and claims 2 and 6 have been canceled. In addition, new claim 11 has been amended. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,569,086 to Takefman. However, as noted above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 10 contain allowable subject matter.

By way of the above amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the further limitations of claim 2 (with claim 2 being canceled), while independent claim 5 has been amended to include the further limitations of claim 6 (with claim 6 being canceled). Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 6 should now be allowed. Since claims 3, 4 and 7-10 depend from claim 1 or claim 5, these claims should now also be allowed. The Examiner is therefore requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 based upon Takefman and to allow these claims.

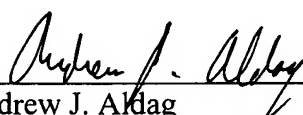
In addition, new claim 11 includes the limitations of claim 1 and claim 10. The Examiner has indicated that claim 10 (which depends from claim 5, a method claim that is similar in scope to claim 1) contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 11 should also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/668,192

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew J. Aldag
Registration No. 40,483

EDELL, SHAPIRO & FINNAN, LLC
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 424-3640

Hand Delivered on: December 15, 2005